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Attorney's Docket No.: 09531-166002 / 96013

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-59 (Cancelled)

60. (Currently amended) An isolated and purified enzymatically inactive peptide of Streptococcal C5a peptidase (SCP) peptide, wherein the peptide comprises the catalytic domain of the SCP, which elicits antibodies that neutralize the peptidase activity of wild-type SCP.

61. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide has reduced binding activity as compared to the wild-type SCP.

62. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the peptide SCP is expressed from an isolated DNA sequence ~~encoding SCP~~.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously pending) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP catalytic domain comprises a specificity crevice.

65. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 64 wherein the SCP specificity crevice comprises contiguous amino acid residues from ~~about~~ residue 260 to residue 417, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in numbering of the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP is consistent with numbering of a full length SCP that includes a signal sequence.

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66. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP comprises one or more of amino acid residues 260, 261, 262, 415, 416 or 417, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in numbering of the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP ~~is consistent with numbering of a full-length SCP that includes a signal sequence.~~

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP catalytic domain comprises contiguous amino acid residues from ~~about~~ residue 130 to residue 512, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in numbering of the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP ~~is consistent with numbering of a full-length SCP that includes a signal sequence.~~

69. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the SCP catalytic domain comprises one or more of amino acid residues 130, 193, 295 or 512, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in numbering of the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP ~~is consistent with numbering of a full-length SCP that includes a signal sequence.~~

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim ~~60~~ 70 wherein the peptide SCP is a variant of wild-type SCP in that the variant SCP has a substitution at one or more of amino acid residues 260, 261, 262, 415, 416, 417, 130, 193, 295 or 512, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in numbering of the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP ~~is consistent with numbering of a full-length SCP that includes a signal sequence.~~

72. (Original) The peptide of claim 71 wherein the substitution is a conserved substitution.

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73. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 71 60, wherein the peptide SCP is SCPA49D130A, SCPA49H193A, SCPA49N295A, SCPA49S512A, SCPA1D130A, SCPA1H193A, SCPA1N295A, SCPA1S512A, SCPBD130A, SCPBH193A, SCPBN295A, SCPBS512A or ΔSCPA49.

74. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 73, wherein the peptide SCP is SCPA1S512A.

75. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide varies from wild-type native SCP in that it does not contain a signal sequence.

76. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide varies from wild-type native SCP in that it does not contain a cell wall insert.

77. (Previously pending) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the SCP is from a group A Streptococcus, group B Streptococcus, group C Streptococcus or group G Streptococcus.

78. (Currently amended) The peptide according to claim 77, wherein the SCP is from Streptococcus is Group A Streptococcus.

Claims 79-98 (Cancelled)

99. (Currently amended) The peptide of claim 69, wherein the peptide SCP has a substitution at one or more of amino acid residues 130, 193, 295 or 512 with an alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan or methionine residue.

100. (Cancelled)